

Message Text

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20/12

ACTION EA-10

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R 070530Z APR 75 ZEL

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2247

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1365

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN CORRECTION 1365 VICE 1350)

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, SN, TH

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF DEFENSE GOH'S COMMENTS ON INDOCHINA,
THAILAND AND ASEAN

1. ACTING PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE,
DR. GOH KENG SWEE, MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS DURING MY LUNCHEON FOR
GENERAL BROWN, CHAIRMAN JCS:

2. REACTION TO EVENTS IN INDOCHINA: DR. GOH'S PRINCIPAL CONCERN
WAS THE PROBABLE IMPACT ON THAILAND. ASSUMING THAT NORTH VIETNAM
WOULD BE ABLE TO GAIN CONTROL OVER ALL OF CAMBODIA AND SOTH VIETNAM,
GOH DOUBTED DRV WOULD SEND FORCES INTO THAILAND. HOWEVER,
HE THOUGHT NORTH VIETNAM WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A SAFE
SANCTUARY FOR INSURRENGTS OPERATION IN EASTERN THAILAND AND EXTEND
TRAINING AND OTHER FORMS OF SUPPORT TO THEM. HIS PRINCIPAL CONCERN
IS THAT (A) IF AND WHEN NORTH VIETNAM FULLY CONTROL ALL OF CAMBODIA A
ND

SOUTH VIETNAM IT WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE MUCH MORE SUPPORT (PRE-
SUMABLY ACROSS THE GULF OF THAILAND) TO INSURGENTS ON THE MALAYSIA
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THAILAND BORDER, AND (B) A COMMUNIST VICTORY IN INDOCHINA WOULD

PROVIDE A PSYCHOLOGICAL LIFT TO INSURGENTS IN BOTH MALAYSIA AND THAILAND WHICH MAY ENCOURAGE THEM TO REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS. HE CLEARLY HOPED US FORCES WOULD REMAIN IN THAILAND.

3. ASEAN: GOH THOUGHT THAT A COMMUNIST VICTORY IN INDOCHINA WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF CAUSING THE ASEAN GOVERNMENTS TO WORK MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER ON POLITICAL AND EVEN POSSIBLY SECURITY MATTERS. HOWEVER, HE WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER THE ASEAN GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE PREPARED TO INFLUENCE THE PRG ON THE QUESTION OF KEEPING US FORCE IN THAILAND.

4. SEE SEPTEL FOR DR. GOH'S COMMENTS ON FUTURE CONTROL OF THE NAVAL STORES BASIN AND RURAL DEPOT IN SINGAPORE.
CRONK

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